

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing the roles played by May Wright Sewall, Zerelda Wallace, and Helen Gougar in the Indiana women's suffrage movement.

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_____, read first time and referred to Committee on _____



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1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing the roles played
2 by May Wright Sewall, Zerelda Wallace, and Helen Gougar in the
3 Indiana women's suffrage movement.

4 *Whereas, The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan*
5 *political organization, encourages informed and active*
6 *participation in government, works to increase*
7 *understanding of major public policy issues, and influences*
8 *public policy through education and advocacy;*

9 *Whereas, The League of Women Voters was founded by*
10 *Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920 during the convention of the*
11 *National American Woman Suffrage Association;*

12 *Whereas, As the 100th anniversary of the organization*
13 *approaches in 2020, special recognition is due to three*
14 *women who played key roles in the suffrage movement in*
15 *Indiana — May Wright Sewall, Zerelda Wallace, and Helen*
16 *Gougar;*

17 *Whereas, May Wright Sewall was born on May 27, 1844,*
18 *in Greenfield, Wisconsin, and died on July 23, 1920, before*
19 *getting the right to vote in Indiana;*

20 *Whereas, Although she was most well known for the role*
21 *she played in the women's suffrage movement, May Wright*
22 *Sewall was an important educator and a leader in the area*



1 *of civic improvement and peacemaking;*

2 *Whereas, After graduating from Northwestern Female*
3 *College in 1866 and earning an M.A. degree in 1871, May*
4 *Wright Sewall taught school in Corinth, Mississippi, was the*
5 *principal of the high school in Plainwell, Michigan, and was*
6 *a teacher at a high school in Indianapolis;*

7 *Whereas, Along with her second husband, Theodore L.*
8 *Sewall, May founded the Girls' Classical School of*
9 *Indianapolis in 1882;*

10 *Whereas, During this time May had helped establish the*
11 *Indianapolis Equal Suffrage Society, led a campaign that*
12 *narrowly failed to secure women's suffrage in Indiana, and*
13 *was chairman of the executive committee of the National*
14 *Woman Suffrage Association;*

15 *Whereas, May Wright Sewall held many positions during*
16 *her career, including the first recording secretary and*
17 *president of the National Council of Women, president of the*
18 *International Council of Women, and first vice president of*
19 *the General Federation of Women's Clubs;*

20 *Whereas, Zerelda Wallace was born on August 6, 1817,*
21 *in Kentucky and came to Indianapolis with her family in the*
22 *early 1830s;*

23 *Whereas, Zerelda was active in the temperance*
24 *movement, was instrumental in the founding of the Women's*
25 *Christian Temperance Union, and served as the*
26 *organization's first Indiana state president and national vice*
27 *president;*

28 *Whereas, Zerelda campaigned for women's suffrage with*
29 *the same vigor as she had in the temperance movement,*
30 *serving as president of the Equal Suffrage Society of*
31 *Indianapolis, was a founder of the Indiana Woman's Suffrage*
32 *Association, and was elected vice president of the National*
33 *Woman Suffrage Association;*



1 *Whereas, A contemporary of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and*
2 *Susan B. Anthony, Zerelda was known as a powerful speaker*
3 *for both the temperance and women's suffrage movements*
4 *and was in constant demand, addressing gatherings across*
5 *the nation;*

6 *Whereas, Zerelda testified before the United States*
7 *Senate Judiciary Committee on women's right to vote,*
8 *addressed the 1883 International Council of Women held in*
9 *Washington, D.C., on "The Moral Power of the Ballot", and*
10 *was a featured speaker at the conventions of the National*
11 *Woman Suffrage Association;*

12 *Whereas, Zerelda was elected posthumously to the*
13 *Indiana Academy and was also selected to represent Indiana*
14 *in the League of Women Voters National Hall of Fame;*

15 *Whereas, In recognition of her outstanding*
16 *accomplishments, an Indiana State Historic Marker was*
17 *dedicated to Zerelda Wallace at the Central Christian*
18 *Church in Indianapolis;*

19 *Whereas, In addition to her work with the women's*
20 *suffrage movement, Zerelda was the wife of Governor David*
21 *Wallace, the sixth governor of Indiana, and the stepmother of*
22 *Lew Wallace;*

23 *Whereas, Helen Gougar was born on July 18, 1843, near*
24 *Litchfield, Michigan;*

25 *Whereas, Helen accepted a teaching position in*
26 *Lafayette, where she met and married John Gougar, a young*
27 *attorney;*

28 *Whereas, As a young wife, Helen was involved in several*
29 *benevolent organizations in Lafayette, including the YMCA,*
30 *Lafayette Home Association, Ladies' Benevolent Society, and*
31 *the Second Presbyterian Church;*

32 *Whereas, In April 1878, Helen addressed a Blue Ribbon*



1 *Temperance Rally in Lafayette and persuaded 500 attendees*
2 *to sign a temperance pledge, a speech marking the beginning*
3 *of Helen's commitment to the temperance movement and,*
4 *through this work, to becoming an ardent suffragist;*

5 *Whereas, Helen ventured into the newspaper business*
6 *when she became the editor of "Our Temperance Herald",*
7 *renaming it "Our Herald";*

8 *Whereas, Helen traveled to Kansas and spearheaded the*
9 *drafting of a municipal suffrage bill, uniting the local*
10 *Women's Christian Temperance Union with the Kansas*
11 *Equal Suffrage Association, a bill that passed in 1887;*

12 *Whereas, In 1888 when the state and national*
13 *Republican party refused to include suffrage and temperance*
14 *in the party platform, Helen left the Republican Party and*
15 *became a member of the Prohibition Party, becoming a*
16 *delegate to the Prohibition Party National Convention in*
17 *1892;*

18 *Whereas, It was this party involvement that put Helen at*
19 *odds with her suffragist comrades, including Susan B.*
20 *Anthony;*

21 *Whereas, Helen sued the Tippecanoe County election*
22 *board for its refusal to allow her to vote in the 1894 election*
23 *and was able to argue her own case before the Supreme*
24 *Court (she was admitted to the bar in 1895) due to the*
25 *experience she gained helping her husband;*

26 *Whereas, Helen Gougar died in 1907 without getting the*
27 *right to vote;*

28 *Whereas, In recognition of her outstanding*
29 *accomplishments, an Indiana State Historic Marker was*
30 *dedicated to Helen Gougar in Lafayette; and*

31 *Whereas, These three great women continue to be an*
32 *example and inspiration for all Hoosiers: Therefore,*



1 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly*
2 *of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives concurring:*

3 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly recognizes
4 the many accomplishments of these three outstanding women in
5 the suffrage movement in Indiana and nationally.

6 SECTION 2. That the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy
7 of this resolution to the League of Women Voters.

